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Message Text

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14
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 /075 W
---------- 003795
R 140404Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3973
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONGKONG
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EALR, ECIN, ETRD, MY
SUBJECT: VIETNAM RECONSTRUCTION: MALAYSIA OFFERS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE NEW STRAITS TIMES REPORTED ON JULY 9
THAT PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER MUSA HITAM IN DISCUSSIONS
WITH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN AFFAIRS VICE MINISTER PHAN HEIN
HERE OFFERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP VIETNAM REHABILITATE
HER RUBBER INDUSTRY AND TO DEVELOP HER OIL PALM SECTOR.
MUSA HITAM OFFERED TO SEND A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO VIETNAM AND
INVITED THE VIETNAMESE TO SEND A TECHNICAL TEAM TO STUDY
MALAYSIAN RUBBER AND OIL PALM INDUSTRIES. MR. PHAN INDICATED
THAT VIETNAM MIGHT SEND SUCH A TEAM AND THAT EMBASSY OFFICIALS
OF BOTH COUNTRIES COULD LOOK INTO AREAS FOR COLABORATION.

2. MUSA HITAM BRIEFED PHAN ON THE ANRPC RUBBER PRICE
STABILIZATION AGREEMENT WHICH HE INDICATED WOULD BE
SIGNED IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER. THE DISCUSSION
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INCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF VIETNAM BECOMING AN ANRPC

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MEMBER (SOUTH VIETNAM WAS AMEMBER BEFORE REUNIFICATION).
PHAN REPORTEDLY SHOWED INTEREST AND REQUESTED DETAILS.

3. GOM ALSO INDICATED THAT SHE COULD HELP VIETNAM
RECONSTRUCTION IN OTHER AREAS INCLUDING TIMBER PRODUCTS
SUCH AS RAILWAY SLEEPERS AND PREFABRICATED TIMBER HOUSES.

4. SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES PHAN AS SAYING
THAT MALAYSIAN-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS WERE LEADING TOWARDS
"A NEW STEP OF DEVELOPMENT." "THIS, WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT
RESULT OF OUR VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY. THROUGH OUR TALKS
WITH LEADERS OF THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT, BOTH SIDES
HAVE REALISED THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN THE RELATION (SIC)
BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND VIETNAM. BOTH COUNTRIES DESIRE
TO DEVELOP GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS AND COOPERATION IN
VARIOUS ASPECTS ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT, EQUALITY,
MUTUAL BENEFIT AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S
INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

5. PHAN THANKED PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN FOR HIS STATEMENT
THAT MALAYSIA WOULD EXERT HER BEST EFFORTS WITHIN HER
CAPABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: WHILE MALAYSIA DOES NOT
NORMALLY FIND HERSELF IN POSITION OF AID DONOR, THE GOM VIEWS ITS
OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM AS A USEFUL
STEP IN BRINGING VN INTO A MORE FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH
MALAYSIA AND PERHAPS ULTIMATELY WITH ASEAN AND THEREBY
DEFUSING ANY POTENTIAL AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS HANOR MAY
HAVE. SIMILARLY, THE AID OFFER IS CONSISTENT WITH AND IN
FURTHERANCE OF THE GOM'S POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT AND THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY.
BEYOND THESE BASIC POLICY CONSIDERATIONS, THE SUGGESTIONS
THAT VN PARTICIPATE IN THE ANRPC RUBBER STABILIZATION
SCHEME REFLECTS GOM RECONGNITION OF VN'S HISTORICAL ROLE
AS AN EFFICIENT PRODUCER OF NATURAL RUBBER WHOSE RETURN TO
THE EXPORT MARKET AS A FREE AGENT COULD BE DETRIMENTAL
TO MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS TO STABILIZE THROUGH THE ANRPC
RUBBER SCHEME, THE PRICE OF ITS MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITY
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WHICH, WITH HALF-MILLION MALAY SMALLHOLDER PRODUCERS, IS
OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL TERMS. END LIMITED
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UNDERHILL

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NNN

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